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795.00/5-0689

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

208

DATE: May 5, 1954

TO: ARA - Mr. Holland

FROM: ARA/P - Mr. Raine

ARA/P - Francis W. Herron and William A. Wieland

SUBJECT: Interview with Drew Pearson

It is recommended that you see Drew Pearson and discuss with him for background only aspects of the Guatemalan problem. It is believed that the following basic materials should be made available to him:

1. Soviet Communism in Guatemala and the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo. It should be understood that Mr. Pearson could use these documents for background and in no circumstances for direct quote.

2. The January 14 and February 4 speeches of Senator Wiley contain useful material which is conveniently presented.

It would be important to give him a general line of the American Republics who support our position, and particularly call attention to pronouncements by the Costa Rican Ambassador in Washington. Since Pearson's column is widely circulated in Latin America, the more comment or material from Latin American sources the better from his point of view.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/22/76
PER Katt OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 640259

cc: MID - Mr. Leddy
ARA - Mr. Pearson

ARA/P:FWHerron:mwh

714.001/5-954
CS/T
CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFIED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 5 1976

F790005-0390

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Latins Laugh at U. S. Fruit Row

By Drew Pearson

THE GUATEMALA ROW may have left the impression here at home that the Administration was acting with forthrightness and vigor, but in Latin America the repercussions have been unfortunate.

Here is what the Administration did:

1. Consolidated all conservatives in Guatemala behind the government. Hitherto, left-wingers in the Guatemalan government had plenty of opposition, but with the powerful United States jumping on President Arbenz, he now has all factions behind him.

2. Aroused roars of laughter over the idea of an arms airlift to the Honduran army of only 2500 men. "What can 2500 men do with an airlift of arms from the United States?" asked the Latinos. "They must consider this as important as Dien Bien Phu."

3. Aligned the sympathy of most Latin-American countries with Guatemala rather than with the United States.

The situation is analogous in more ways than one to that in 1927 when Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State under President Coolidge, announced that Mexico was "on trial before the world." Immediately, most of Latin America from Argentina to the Panama Canal lined up on Mexico's side. And most Latin-American political candidates, if they wanted to get elected, campaigned on the platform of making the Yanqui eagle scream.

History Repeats

IN MEXICO, the issue in 1927 was expropriation of oil lands and big American cattle ranches. In Guatemala today, the issue is expropriation of 253,000 acres of United Fruit Co. land, to be paid for by Guatemalan government bonds.

Until recently the brother of John Cabot, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America when the Guatemalan row started, was president of United Fruit. Also, Mrs. Cabot had been a stockholder in United Fruit.

While Mrs. Cabot was careful to sell her stock, and while her husband is a straight-laced New Englander who would lean over backward to avoid letting his personal interests conflict with nation interests, nevertheless it is difficult to explain this successfully to Latin American critics.

Furthermore, Francis White, the man who was in charge of the State Department's Latin-American Division at the time Kellogg declared Mexico was on trial before the world, is now the United States Ambassador to Mexico. This may have been one reason why Excelsior, leading Mexico City newspaper, editorially criticized Ambassador White as a misfit.

Public criticism of an American Ambassador is extremely rare, and it was not lost on the Mexican public.

In order Secretary Dulles' preelection promises of reviving the good-neighbor policy be carried out, it is clear that the good-neighbor policy today doesn't exist in the minds of Latin Americans.

A Few Suggestions

FROM ONE WHO has studied Pan American relations over a great many years, here are a few ideas which might help to restore our traditional friendships in this hemisphere:

Send Sumner Wells, the architect of the good-neighbor policy, on a roving commission to Latin America.

Send Gov. Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico, a great diplomat and executive, to Guatemala to iron out immediate problems before they get worse. There were only three Communists in the Guatemalan government, and one has been fired already. The situation is by no means hopeless. Saber-rattling will only create more Communists, but the friendly offices of the Governor, who is looked upon as a bridge between the United States and Latin America, could help a lot.

Send about 1000 4-H Club youngsters, Quaker work-campers or other dedicated young people to perform shoulder-to-shoulder field work with Guatemalan farmers. This has been done in other countries since the war with electrifying results. People-to-people friendship will go a lot farther than guns or diplomatic notes.

Second Blast at Joe

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER didn't cease fire when he finished his Columbia University speech castigating "demagogues" who have exploited communism for personal gain. He fired a second, though indirect blast at Joe McCarthy during an off-the-record luncheon with leaders of the four top veterans' organizations the next day.

Henry J. Mahady, national commander of the American Veterans Committee, touched it off by warmly congratulating Mr. Eisenhower on the Columbia address.

"You did a great job, Mr. President," he said. "If Americans were divided before on how the Government should handle the Communist issue, they were united after listening to your speech last night."

"Our Nation should stand united and does stand united against communism," replied Mr. Eisenhower. "Communism is a common enemy of all decent, right-thinking people. We don't want any demagogues capitalizing to their own advantage and dividing us on something that we are naturally against."

Mr. Eisenhower invited spokesmen of the major war veteran groups—the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets, and the Disabled American Veterans—to the luncheon to greet them on the Indochina crisis. However, before he could get started, there was some good-natured banter at the expense of Wayne Richards, national VFW commander.

When Richards seemed a bit aloof from the conversation before the luncheon started, Mahady remarked facetiously to former VFW Commander Frank Hilton: "What's the matter with Richards? He seems lost in thought. He looks like he has been run over by some vigilantes."

Richards didn't appreciate the jest, obviously aimed at the much-publicized move of Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars to spy on their neighbors.

"Some newspaper reporters and columnists are still yapping about that," retorted Richards. "But the answers to their charges are unfortunately found in the back pages. The way the story was handled was highly unfair to the VFW."

AIR POUCH

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714.00/1-1154

1790065-0691

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 583

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 11, 1954

REF: Embdes 424, November 17, 1953

714.00/1-1154 ARA OIA EUR/I FAR CIA

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	SEPT
	ARA-4	DC/R-2 OLI-6 EUR/I-1 EUR-5
	REC'D 1/12	INFO OTHER CIA-1

SUBJECT: José Manuel FORTUNY, Guatemalan Communist Leader, Returns from the Soviet Union

OFFICE OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

File

The Communist Tribuna Popular of January 9 reported that José Manuel FORTUNY, Secretary General of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), returned to Guatemala on the previous day from a visit to "various European countries."

Fortuny left Guatemala for the Soviet Union on November 5, 1953, and his trip to Moscow was thus of over two monts' duration.

For the Ambassador:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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11/22/76 640259

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 588

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON January 12, 1954

REF : Embdes 308, October 9, 1953

JAN 13 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT	
	RECD	OTHER	
	TO		

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Communist Party's Annual Renewal of Membership Cards Reflects Party Growth.

The Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) has spent the months of December 1953 and January 1954 in the annual renewal of the Party cards of its members who are required to be up-to-date in their payment of Party dues before receiving their 1954 card, according to the Party newspaper Tribuna Popular of January 12. The annual renewal of Party cards is a device used by the PGT to assure itself of a militant membership by dropping those members who have allowed their interest to lapse.

Although the Tribuna Popular's article gave no data on party membership, it reflected the expanding character of the Party throughout the country. It mentioned Departmental Committees in the Departments of Guatemala, Escuintla, Izabal, Chiquimula, and Chimaltenango, indicating that there are several "Basic Organizations" cells in each of them. It named eleven cells in the Department of Guatemala, three of which had not previously been publicly cited so far as is known, and listed five separate localities, Puerto Barrios, Morales, Quiriguá, Chinook and Kikapoo in the Department of Izabal where there were Basic Organizations. It also cited Basic Organizations in the Department of Baja Verapaz, not previously publicly announced, as well as in the Departments of Santa Rosa, Chiquimula, Suchitepéquez, (including one on the State farm "Palo Gordo"), Sololá and Alta Verapaz.

For the Ambassador:

William [illegible]. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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1/22/76
640259

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 612 DESP. NO.

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — January 19, 1954 DATE

REF: F790005-0693

JAN 20 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	DC/R-2 OLI-6 EUR/1-1
	READ 1/21	INFO OTHER CIA-7 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Communist Leader Greets U.S. Daily Worker.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JAN 2 1954

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11/22/76 640259

"José [illegible] FORTUNY, Secretary General of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo, who returned from Moscow, sent the following message to the U.S. Communist newspaper "Daily Worker," according to the PGT's Tribuna Popular of January 19:

> "Accept the warm salute of our Party on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of your newspaper, the valiant spokesman of the legitimate interests of the North American people, democracy, socialism, and peace--José Manuel Fortuny, Secretary General of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo."

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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1954 JAN 21 PM 4 08
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714.001/1-1954

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714.001/1-2054
1790005-0694

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 618 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. January 20, 1954

714.001 ARACLI P I CIA NAVY RSB

REF : Embassy Despatch 308, October 9, 1953 LAB S/P G EUR/X

	ACTION	DEPT.	
5 For Dept. Use Only	RSB/4	INFO REP-2 DC/R-2 OLI-6 EUR/X-1	SECRET CONFIDENTIAL
	1/21	OTHER C/A-7 NAVV-3 OCB-1 LAB-3	

SUBJECT: Further Example of Communist Penetration of Guatemalan National Agrarian Department.

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[illegible] 640259

BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JAN 28 1954

714.001/1-2054

In a further example of the ubiquity of Communists around the Guatemalan National Agrarian Department, the Communist Tribuna Popular of January 20 reported that the following jury named to approve an emblem for the Department would render its decision on the following day: Otto Raúl GONZALEZ, for the National Agrarian Department; Wenceslao CORDON for the labor federation CGTG; Enrique Adolfo RODRIGUEZ for the peasant organization CNCG; Juan Antonio FRANCO for the youngartists' and writers' group, Saker-Ti; and Huberto ALVARADO for the "House of Culture."

Of these five members, two are publicly registered members of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo: Cordon, an officer of the Agrarian section of the CGTG, and Alvarado, the member of the PGT Central Committee in charge of the party's Youth Commission. Another, Otto Raúl González, member of the National Agrarian Council, is a well known Communist-line poet and publicist although there is no known public statement as to whether he is a card-carrying party member.

While the jury to select an emblem is scarcely a policy-making body, the presence of the Communist personalities on it reflects the atmosphere on the Communist issue prevailing in the National Agrarian Department.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

FEB 23 1954

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714.001/1-2254

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

DISP. NO. 780905-0695

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE January 22, 1954

REF : Emb. Desp. 303, October 9, 1953

714.001/ARA CLIPPING, JAN 25 1954 PSB LAI. S/P G EUR/P

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	MAP 230/R-2 SAI-6 P-1 USIA-10 EUR/K-1
	REC'D 1/25	OTHER C IA-5 NAVY-3 OCB-1 LA B-3

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Communists Observe 30th Anniversary of Lenin's Death.

BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS JAN 29 1954

[redacted]

Offering further evidence of the Guatemalan Communist party's identity with the interests of international Communism and the Soviet Union, the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) on January 21 held ceremonies at its headquarters to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin, leader of the Soviet Revolution. According to the account in the party's Tribuna Popular, the participants sang the national anthems of Guatemala and of the Soviet Union, heard speeches by José Manuel FORTUNY, PGT Secretary General, and Mario SILVA Jonama, PGT Secretary for Education, listened to Shastakovic's Fifth Symphony, dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the USSR's October Revolution.

William L. Krieg
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 638 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — January 25, 1954 DATE

REF : Emb. Desp 628, January 22, 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	DC/R-2 OLI-6 Sup/C-1 O/OC-1
	REC'D 1-28	INFO OTHER USIA-10 CIA-7 Pty-3 OCB-1

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Communist Party Holds Lenin Commemoration Meeting in Escuintla School.

In a further piece of evidence showing the range of Communist activity using government facilities, the Departmental Committee of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (the Guatemalan Communist party--PGT) in the Pacific slope Department of Escuintla held a mass meeting on January 23 in Escuintla's government-owned "José Martí" Federation School to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin, leader of the Soviet Revolution.

The mimeographed invitation to this meeting, which was distributed from cars circulating in Escuintla, read:

PEOPLE OF ESCUINTLA

The Departmental Committee of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) cordially invites all of the people of Escuintla to the solemn event which will take place on the 23d of January at 20 hours (8 p.m.) at the Federation-type "José Martí" School and which will render homage to the great leader and teacher of all of the workers of the world, Comrade Vladimir Ilich Lenin, commemorating the XXXth Anniversary of his death.

We should not miss such an important public event which will demonstrate the faith and confidence which we have in our beloved party and the just struggles of the Guatemalan people.

FOR THE JUST APPLICATION OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM IN OUR COUNTRY!

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND AGAINST IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION!

FOR PEACE, FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND GUATEMALAN DEMOCRACY!

Guatemala, January, 1954
Departmental Committee of the PGT

714.001/1-2554

FEB 24 1954

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Encl. No.
Desp. No.
From

F790005-0697

The Director of the Federation School in Escuintla, presumably the one where the meeting was held, is Humberto Ignacio [illegible], who until March, 1953, was a Communist PGT Deputy in Congress. It will also be recalled that the new Mayor of Escuintla, Gabriel CAREY, is a member of the Communist PGT.

William L. Krieg
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

687
DESP. NO.

F790005-0698

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE February 9, 1954

REF : Embassy Despatch 662, February 3, 1954

FEB 10

ACTION	DEPT.					
ARA-4	DC/R-2	OLI-6	EUR/X-1	SY-2	UNA-4	
RECD 2-11	FOR OTHER	CIA-7	USIA-10			

Guatemalan Communist Party Hears Fortuny's Report on Political Situation in Connection With Alleged "International Plot" Against Guatemala.

José Manuel FORTUNY, Secretary General of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) on February 6 delivered a report before a meeting of 150 national and intermediate party leaders on the present political situation in the light of the Guatemalan Government's denunciation of an "international plot" against it, and stated that the "new policy" of imperialism and the American Embassy in Guatemala was directed at isolating the Guatemalan Communists from the "united front" of revolutionary forces in this country.

According to the summary of Fortuny's remarks appearing in the PGT's Tribuna Popular of February 9, he recalled that the PGT Central Committee had pointed out in its October 16-18, 1953 plenary session (Emb. Desp. 363, October 27, 1953) that foreign intervention had assumed the special form of an armed invasion of Guatemala "prepared in Central America but directed by the North American imperialists from Washington and Boston."

FEB 15 1954

After dwelling on the theme that the plans of Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas and the other purported conspirators were hampered by the people's struggle for "peace," Fortuny went on to analyze the purported plot and the participation of President Somoza of Nicaragua and General TRUJILLO of the Dominican Republic "as servile lackeys of Yankee imperialism, and unconditional servants of the Department of State." He warned that danger was not past.

Fortuny's report, according to Tribuna Popular, then touched on "the dangers which faced the unity of the democratic force, referring to the new policy of imperialism and of the North American Embassy: 'a policy directed at isolating the Communists, tend in this way to divide the united front which is being created in our country.'" Fortuny also referred to internal contradictions of the Guatemalan bourgeoisie and petit bourgeoisie which, he said, were expressed in the difficulties of the Administration parties, PAR, PRG and RN. It was necessary that the question of who is to succeed President Arbenz not divide the alliance of these parties

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Setting forth the tasks ahead, Fortuny said more contributions must be made towards creating "United Committees for the Defense of Sovereignty and for Struggle Against Foreign Intervention;" vigilance must be maintained against conspiracies; explanation work must be carried forward through talks and meetings; and the struggle for the Agrarian Reform must be intensified; the lessons and recommendations of the Second CGTG Congress must be applied; the sales and subscriptions of Tribuna Popular must be increased; and the campaign for signatures on the petition for Big Power "Negotiations" must be intensified.

It is noteworthy that Fortuny's attacks on the Department and this Embassy fit into a current Communist pattern which in the last ten days has seen open charges in Congress by the Communist Deputy Víctor Manuel GUTIERREZ that the Department financed the plot from Mutual Aid funds; the accusation by Gutierrez that the anti-Communist Union de Trabajadores Libres was associated with this Embassy; and the shouts of "Out with him! Out with him!" that met the mention of Ambassador Peurifoy's name at the Communist-front "anti-intervention" meeting before the National Palace on February 5.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

216

TO : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA 714 714.00/2-1254

: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON February 12, 1954

REF : Embassy Despatch 588, January 12, 1954

For Dept. Use Only — ACTION: ARA-4 — DEPT. — RECD 2-20 — FOR — OTHER

SUBJECT: Size of the Guatemalan Labor (Communist) Party Department of Escuintla.

In an indication of the growing size of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), the party newspaper Tribuna Popular of February 17 reported that on February 14 the PGT Departmental Committee in Escuintla had a meeting in favor of a "United Front Against Foreign Intervention" and that it was attended by "61 delegates of the different Basic Committees in the region."

Although there is no reliable data on the size of the Basic Organizations in the Escuintla region, the national average has been reported to be 15 members per Committee and this would mean that there may be as many as 900 card-carrying members in the Pacific Coast Department, in which Communists are probably more prevalent than in any Department except the Department of Guatemala.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

714.001/2-1254

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 748 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — DATE March 2, 1954

REF : Embassy Despatch 347, October 21, 1953

714.001 ARA 3-254 CIA EAR/MAF 3 PS 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	INFO DC/R-2 OLI-6 EUR/R-1
	REC'D 3/4	OTHER CIA-7 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Communist-front "National Peace Committee" Claims 175,000 Signatures on Petition for Negotiations.

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MAR 3 1954

In a ceremony on February 26, the Communist-front National Peace Committee headed by Lic. Antonio CRUZ Franco announced that 175,974 signatures had been gathered in Guatemala for the World Peace Council's petition for negotiations among the USSR, U.S., U.K., France and Communist China. The claimed result of the campaign for signatures was considerably in excess of the initial goal of 125,000.

In the final signature drive, the following organizations handed in a total of 118,290 signatures as follows: The national peasant organization, CNCG, 34,817; the Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca (AFG), 16,740; the national labor federation, CGTG, 31,745; the Alianza de la Juventud Democrática de Guatemala (AJDG), 12,224; the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG), 1,300; the Frente Universitario Democrático (FUD), 746; the Partido Renovación Nacional (PRN), 2,044; Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR), 2,062; and the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), 15,910.

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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714.00/3-854

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 762

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — March 8, 1954

REF : Emb. Despa. 308, Oct. 9, 1953; 703, Feb. 12, 1954.

MAR 10 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	DC/R-2 ECR/A-1 CLI-L S/S-2 U/C-1
	READ 3/11	INFO OTHER	CIA-7 CCB-1 USIA-10 NAVY-3

SUBJECT: More Communists Identified in National Agrarian Department.

Three more Inspectors of Guatemala's National Agrarian Department have been recently identified as avowed Communists. They are:

(1) Oscar Antonio SALAZAR, identified as an Agrarian Inspector in a Prensa Libre story of February 6. Salazar is one of the 532 party members' names handed in to the Civil Registrar by the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo in December 1952 in support of its petition for registration.

(2) Gustavo Adolfo GAITAN, identified as an Agrarian Inspector in a Nuestro Diario story of March 4. Gaitan's name was also on the PGT's registration list.

(3) Hugo CABRERA, identified as an Agrarian Inspector in a New York Times story of February 28. Cabrera avowed himself to be a PGT member to the Times correspondent.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

cc: USDEL, Caracas

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA 640259 807

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embassy Despatch 714, February 18, 1954

714.001/3-2454 APR 8 1954 790005-0703

OFFICE OF REGIONAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS 1954

714.001 ARA CIA EUR/X USIA CIA NAVY OCB LAB USIA

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	REP-2 DC/R-2 OLI-6 EUR/X-1
	REC'D 3/29	INFO OTHER C/A-7 NAVY-3 LAB-3 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Communist Party Elects New Departmental Committee for Department of Guatemala.

In a meeting which illustrated the interlocking ties between the Guatemalan Communist party and the country's labor and mass organizations, the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) on March 20 held a meeting of 160 delegates in the Department of Guatemala to elect a new Departmental Committee and to name "responsibles" for the Departmental "Peace" Committee, the labor unions, and the women's and youths' organizations under Communist control.

Antonio ARDON, the Honduran-born member of the PGT Political Committee, was re-elected Secretary General of the Departmental Committee. The remainder of the Secretariat consisted of Efrain VILLATORO, Secretary for Organization, Eberto SOSA, Secretary for Education and Propaganda, and Roberto MURALLES, Secretary for Finances.

The election also revealed that Cayetano BARRENO J., Secretary of Organization of the Department of Guatemala "Peace"Committee, was a registered party member. He was elected "responsible" for "Peace" affairs. Laura de PINEDA, member of the Executive Committee of the Communist-front women's organization, was also revealed as a party member when she was elected "responsible" for women's affairs. Rufino MORALES Chúa, Secretary General of the Union of Lot Buyers, was confirmed as a party member by being made the "responsible" for the organization of the buyers of lots in housing developments.

The election of Armando VILLASEÑOR, a young railway worker, to the Departmental Committee illustrates the manner in which the Soviet international Communist movement trains its young leaders. Last year he attended a WFTU labor school at Vienna and was a delegate to the Vienna Conference in Defense of the Rights of Youth, and the Bucharest World Youth Festival.

A list of the Departmental Committee, as published in Tribuna Popular of March 23, is attached.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Attachment - 1

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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Departmental Committee of the
PARTIDO GUATEMALTECO DEL TRABAJO
Department of Guatemala
(Elected March 20, 1954)

Secretariat

1. Secretary General . . . . . Antonio ARDON
2. Secretary for Organization. . . . Efraín VILLATORO
3. Secy. for Education & Propaganda. Eberto SOSA
4. Secretary for Finance . . . . . Roberto MURALLES

Responsibles

5. For "Peace" Activities. . . . . Cayetano BARRENO J.
6. For Labor Union Affairs . . . . . Florentín SANCHEZ
7. For Women's Affairs. . . . . Laura de PINEDA
8. For Youth Affairs . . . . . Ricardo MARTINEZ
9. For Lot Buyers . . . . . Rufino MORALES Chúa

Other Members

10. Jorge QUEZADA
11. Eliseo MARROQUIN
12. Augustin ORDOÑEZ
13. Francisco Javier DUARTE
14. Armando VILLASEÑOR
15. Juan de Dios JUAREZ

AIR POUCH

MAR 31 1954

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FOREIGN SERVICE DISPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE March 25, 1954

REF Embassy Despatch 308, October 9, 1953.

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	DCM-2 ALT-6 EUR-5 FE/R-1 REP-2 P-1
	RECD 3/29	OTHER CIA-7 USIA-10 OCB-1 NAVY-3 AF-3

SUBJECT: Indoctrination of Guatemalan Communist and Communist-Front Leaders in the Soviet Orbit.

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An increasingly important instrument of Soviet influence on the national life of Guatemala is the indoctrination of Guatemalan Communist and pro-Communist leaders through trips to the USSR or the Soviet orbit and a review of the current leadership of the Guatemalan Communist party, the national labor and peasant federations, the teachers' union and the principal women's and youths' organizations reveals that most of their key positions are now held by persons who have visited Moscow or attended Communist Congresses in the European Soviet satellites or Communist China.

Although not all Guatemala's leaders who have visited the Soviet world are Communists, there can be no doubt that they were all invited as part of an expensive and unmatched Soviet program to assure that the Guatemalan Communist movement remains on the course set by international Communism and to give them a sense of participation in the greatest political and social upheaval of this age. On returning to Guatemala, these leaders have used their positions to keep their organizations close to the Soviet line. The following data show the ubiquity of leaders who have had Soviet-orbit orientation.

The Communist Party of Guatemala. Of the 11 members of the Political Committee of Guatemala's Communist party, the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), at least six have visited Moscow. Jose Manuel FORTUNY (1953), Secretary General, José Alberto CARDOZA (1952), Víctor Manuel GUTIERREZ (1951, 1953), Carlos Manuel PELLECER (1945), José Luis RAMOS (1953), and Mario SILVA Jonama (1952).

In addition, Huberto ALVARADO, a member of the Party Central Committee, attended the World Youth Festival in the Soviet Zone of Berlin in 1951.

Leaders who have made the pilgrimage to the Soviet orbit are also present in the leadership of the intermediate party organizations, as is illustrated by the election on March 20, 1954, of Armando VILLASEÑOR and Ricardo MARTINEZ as members of the Departmental Committee of the PGT for the Department of Guatemala.

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Villaseñor, a railroad workers' youth leader, attended a World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Labor School and went on to the Bucharest Youth Festival, also attended by Martínez.

Labor Organizations. The top leaders of Guatemalan labor have also visited the USSR recently. Among the principal leaders of the country's only national labor federation, the Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG) the following have visited Moscow: Victor Manuel Gutiérrez, Communist Secretary General (1951, 1953), José Alberto Cardoza, First Vice Secretary General (1952), José Luis CACEROS, "non-Communist" Second Vice Secretary General (1953), Carlos Manuel Pellecer, First Secretary for Conflicts (1945), and José Luis Ramos, Additional Secretary (1953).

Leonardo CASTILLO Flores, Secretary General of the national peasant organization, the Confederación Nacional Campesina de Guatemala (CNCG), was also a Moscow visitor (1953) although he is a member of the leftist Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR) and not of the Communist PGT.

Rafael TISCHLER, Communist Secretary General of the national teachers' union, STEG, studied educational methods in the USSR (1953).

Youth Organizations. The Alianza de la Juventud Democrática de Guatemala (AJDG), the country's most prominent youth organization, is honeycombed with young leaders who have been taken to the Soviet orbit, principally in connection with the Bucharest Youth Festival and Warsaw Students' Congress in 1953 after which the Guatemalan delegation toured the USSR and, in a few cases, Communist China.

Edelberto TORRES Rivas, the Secretary General of the AJDG, was part of the group that went on to the Soviet Union as were Oscar PEÑATE, the Secretary for Propaganda, Luis MORALES Chúa, the Secretary for Students' Affairs, and a half dozen or more of the other AJDG leaders.

The Frente Universitario Democrático, the noisy, minority, Communist-front students' organization in the Guatemalan National University, is currently headed by Ricardo RAMIREZ de Leon as Secretary General. He attended the 1953 Defense of Rights of Youth Conference in the Soviet Sector of Vienna. The Secretary for Organization, Julio René ESTEVEZ Rodriguez, attended the 1953 Bucharest Youth Festival, went on to the USSR and Communist China along with Ricardo [illegible], also of the FUD. The organization's ex-Secretary General, César Augusto CAZALI Avila, visited Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria in the summer of 1953.

Women's Organizations. The local Communist-front women's organization Alianza Femenina de Guatemala (AFG) has several travelers to the Soviet orbit in its leadership. Dora FRANCO y Franco, the

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Secretary General, visited Moscow and Pekin (1952) accompanied by Carmen MORAN, the current Secretary for Children's Affairs.

The National Peace Committee. A high proportion of the officers of the Comité Nacional Pro-Paz, the Guatemalan affiliate of the World Peace Council, have gone to the Soviet orbit, including four of the five Vice Presidents: Luis CARDOZA y Aragon (ex-Guatemalan Minister to the USSR, 1945), Victor Manuel Gutiérrez (Moscow, 1951, 1953), Major Marco Antonio FRANCO (Budapest, 1953), and Leonardo CASTILLO Flores (Moscow, 1953). Of the other officers, Mario Silva Jonama, Secretary General, visited Pekin and Moscow (1952), Oscar Edmundo PALMA, Secretary of Propaganda (Moscow, Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania, 1953), Atala VALENZUELA, Secretary for Finance (Moscow and Pekin, 1952), and Carlos ALVARADO Jérez (Moscow and Pekin, 1952).

The "Revolutionary" Parties. There has thus far been comparatively little travel to the Soviet orbit by leaders of the leftist "Revolutionry" parties, other than the Communist party, which support the Arbenz Administration, but there have been at least one or two from each. In the Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR), Major Marco Antonio Franco, Secretary for Finances, attended the Budapest meeting of the World Peace Council in 1953, while Leonardo Castillo Flores, member of the Political Committee, went to the 1953 Vienna WFTU meeting and on to Moscow. In the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteco (PRG), Ernesto CAPUANO del Vecchio, attended the World Conference of Democratic Lawyers in Vienna early in 1954, as did José Humberto HERNANDEZ Cobos, member of the Political Committee of the remaining Administration party, the Renovación Nacional (RN).

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Note: The foregoing illustrates the ubiquity in Guatemalan political, labor and mass organizations of key leaders who have been indoctrinated by trips to the Soviet orbit, but it does not purport to be a listing of all Guatemalans who have visited the Soviet sphere.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

cc: AmEmbassy, Moscow

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